

THE CASTAWAYS OF
THE FLAG
1 _____ ft

" Or, rather, what flag is this ? "
Captain Gould
added.

" An English flag!" the boatswain
cried,
" Look : red bunting with the yacht in
the corner!"

The wind had just spread out the flag,
and it
certainly was a British flag.

How they sprang from rock to rock ! A
hundred
and fifty feet still separated them from
the summit,
but they were no longer conscious of
fatigue_s
did not try to recover their wind, but
hurried up
without stopping, carried along by what
seemed
supernatural strength!

At length, just before three o'clock,
Captain
Gould and his companions stood side
by side on
the top of the peak.

Their disappointment was bitter
when they
turned their eyes towards the north.

A thick mist hid the horizon. It was
impossible
to discover whether the plateau
ended on this
side in a perpendicular cliff, as it did
at Turtle
Bay, or whether it spread much further
beyond
Through this dense fog nothing could
be seen
Above the layer of vapour the sky was
still bright
with the rays of the sun, now beginning
to decline
into the west,

_f Well, they would camp there and

wait until the
breeze had driven the fog away!
Not one of
them would go back without having
examined
; the northern portion of the island !